

IN FOCUS

The Official Publication
of the Jamaican
Canadian Association

May 1998

SERVING THE BLACK AND CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY FOR OVER 35 YEARS

JCA launches 2nd car raffle

By Billroy Powell

Resolved to raise \$100,000.00 for the completion of its centre, the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) launches a second raffle in as many years. The prizes for the raffle are: a 1998 Mercury Mystique, a Caribbean cruise for two and a microwave oven.

Jamaica's Consul General, Mr. Herman LaMont, helped to launch the raffle on Saturday, April 25, 1998, at the JCA Centre, 995 Arrow Road.

It is by the "joining of hearts and hands that this community is going to move forward" said Mr. LaMont, as he encouraged those who were present to press forward with the job of completing the building. He also called on everyone to support the organization in the best possible way. We have to face the challenge ourselves. We



JCA members dangle car keys to 1998 Mercury Mystique waiting to be won by a lucky member of the community.

cannot rely on others to do it for us.

JCA is actively seeking funds from other sources and have launched a corporate fund-raising campaign soliciting donations from individuals, businesses and corporations. A request has been made to the federal government for a grant to assist with the renovation. Our community, including JCA's members, is being encouraged to make pledges and donations to this worthy cause.

JCA president, Herman Stewart, announced that the renovation "will begin in September no matter what" with or without the loan from the bank. If the bank loan does not come to fruition "we

will use the money we have raised to date to get started" and in which case we will complete the banquet facilities. The recreation section of the building will commence at a later date.

The total renovation cost of the building is estimated at \$770,000. JCA must secure 40 % of the estimated cost in order to qualify for a loan of the remaining 60% from the bank.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, May 31, 1998

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

JCA Centre, 995 Arrow Road

Election of Officers, phone

(416) 746-5772

Inside Highlights

President Report Pg.3

New Director!!!! Pg.4

Video promo Pg.4

Events Pg.5

Thank you!! Pg.8

Editorial

The call made by Jamaica's Consul General, Mr. Herman LaMont, for Jamaicans with landed immigrant status to become Canadian citizens is very timely and appropriate. Many Jamaicans seem to be unaware of the difference between landed and citizenship status. Landed status is no substitute for citizenship. It does not protect individuals from being deported, or entitle them to all the benefits available to Canadian citizens (e.g., the right to leave the country for an indefinite period of time, the right to vote in a provincial or federal election, the right to work with all levels of government, and eligibility to become jurors).

It is no secret that over the last five years approximately 2,000 Jamaicans have been deported from Canada. A substantial number of these were landed immigrants in Canada; however, they fall within the category of danger to the public. The Immigration Act was amended in 1993 to include (Section 70(5)) which established the provision for Citizenship and Immigration Canada to deport individuals who have committed serious crimes in Canada.

Many of those who were deported had no felony charge(s) against them at the time of their deportation. They committed a crime for which they had served time in prison 4 or 5 years ago. Immigration policy enforcers, however, have no regards for the fact that some of these individuals have been successfully rehabilitated, have changed their undesirable lifestyle, have been working and earning an honest living to support their families and that some of them have up to five Canadian born children who remain in Canada without the support of the deported parent.

It is common practice these days

for Immigration officials to take people away from their homes and their jobs and deport them. If those with landed immigrant status had taken the time to obtain their citizenship, they would not have been deported. Jamaica has an obligation to accept its deported citizens, reciprocally Canada has a responsibility to keep its citizens.

This is in no way supporting criminal behaviour or to suggest that citizenship is a license to break the law. But when individuals who have been successfully rehabilitated are being separated from their families based on a simple technicality such as the lack of citizenship, then every effort should be made to address the problem. The fact that children are caught in this sordid affair gives cause for concern. Children are their parents responsibility. Therefore, parents most do what is best for their children, and in this case getting your Canadian citizenship is one of the surest ways to protect your children's best interest.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

The Jamaican Canadian Association regrets the passing of two of our members, Ms. Othlyn Frankson and Ms. Violet Ricketts, recently. Their presence at the JCA will be greatly missed. Our deepest sympathies go to their families and friends.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Caribbean Youth and Family Services (CYFS) office will be relocated to JCA's Head Office, 995 Arrow Road, 2nd Floor, effective Monday, May 25, 1998.

The telephone number will remain the same.

IN
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Haari Abou Korrat, Exec. Director

Editorial Committee: Francella Moore,
Billroy Powell, Herman Stewart, Pauline
Tomlinson

Newsletter Layout: Robert Small

Letters and submissions welcome. The
Editorial Committee reserves the right
to edit materials for length.

President's report

by Herman Stewart

I am pleased to submit this report which is the final one for my term as president. We have had a very challenging past two years with many ups and downs.

As you are aware, we spent the first year defending our right to have our property rezoned. That battle was finally won.

In order to be proactive, we established a Taskforce that examined our organization in its entirety - with input not only from JCA members but also from other stakeholders, as well as the wider community. This resulted in a number of recommendations for the organization to consider and implement.

The JCA Board, along with past-presidents and founding members, spent a weekend in Aurora reviewing the Taskforce recommendations. We presented those recommendations at the February 1998 membership meeting and all approved. Recommendations dealing with membership and advocacy are already implemented and the others will come into effect at the Annual General Meeting on May 31, 1998.

A high point during the past year came in December, when the Provincial Parliament passed legislation exempting the JCA from paying property taxes. This will result in a saving of approximately \$37,000 per year.

Our corporate fundraising campaign is continuing and Kamala Jean Gopie continues to work tirelessly to raise funds so that our renovations can begin. Kamala Jean is leading by example. Her pledge is the highest individual contribution to date. In addition, she has announced that, effective June of this year, she will be working fulltime on the corporate campaign.

As you know, the bank is prepared to give us a construction loan providing we can raise 40% of the construction costs. At present, we need to come up with \$150,000 to meet the bank's requirements.

We have requested a grant from the Federal government to assist with the cost of renovations. I am guardedly optimistic that they will look at our request favourably. If you have not already done so, please send a letter to your M.P in support of our request.

Our second car raffle has been launched. The target is to realize a profit of \$100,000 which would be enough to qualify us to meet the bank's requirements for the construction loan. I am appealing to all members to buy and to help sell tickets to make sure we reach our goal.

We now have our building permit and your Board of Directors have set September as the date to start the renovations.

During the past year, we were able to successfully lobby the provincial government into reviewing the relationship between the police and the SIU. Judge George Adams, who is doing the review, will be forwarding his recommendations to the government at the end of April. During the review period, he met with us three times. We are hopeful that some of our recommendations will be included in his report.

Norm Gardner, the new Chair of the Police Services

Board, was the guest speaker at a Town Hall Meeting we sponsored. He stated that his objective is to maintain dialogue with the community and he also stressed the importance of communication. Audience participation was excellent. There were many timely questions from those in attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues on the Board for their hard work, especially those who are not returning. A heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for a job well done.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 31 at the Annual General Meeting.

*"Love can never be
found inside of a fist!"*

The JCA Violence Against Women Program

Services are free and confidential.

Immediate appointments.

Contact:

Rita McLean
(416) 746-5772

**The Jamaican
Canadian
Association**
36 Years of service and
commitment

New ex-Director!!

The Board of Directors of the Jamaican Canadian Association is pleased to announce the return of Ms. Haari Abou Korrat as Executive Director.

Haari has a wealth of knowledge and experience in management and

fundraising. She is dedicated and innovative and throughout her career, has developed strong leadership and management skills. Haari has an appreciation for the challenges facing social services specifically social advocacy on issues pertaining to Seniors,

Women and Youth within the Caribbean and broader community.

Haari will undoubtedly, assist us in actualizing our vision here at the Jamaican Canadian Association as we move into the 21st century.

Video Promotes Anti-Domestic Violence

By Rita McLean

The Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) and Tropicana Community Services recently completed a video entitled "VIOLENT NIGHT" to promote anti-domestic violence.

The video will be launched on Friday, June 12, 1998 at 6:30pm., at the North York Board of Education, Assembly Hall, 5050 Yonge Street, North of Sheppard.

The JCA and Tropicana received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation and

the Ontario Women's Directorate to produce a video on domestic violence in the Black and Caribbean Community. We acknowledge the support of the McCauley Child Development Centre, Women's Habitat of Etobicoke Shelter, JCA Women's Committee, and York University Graduate Program in Women Studies in the development of the video which will be made available to be presented to the wider community.

The video is designed to educate Black and Caribbean women, service providers and the wider community about domestic violence. It is also our goal to raise awareness about available resources for women experiencing domestic violence in the Black and Caribbean Community.

On behalf of the JCA and Tropicana, we look forward to your attendance at the launching of the video. Please call Rita McLean at (416) 746-5772, to register for the launching.

JCA Hosts New Police Services Board Chair

By Neil Armstrong

Good things come in small packages. This saying certainly sums up the JCA's town hall meeting with the new chair of the Police Services Board, Mr. Norman Gardner. The numbers in attendance were few but the questions were very incisive. Mr. Gardner was held accountable for every utterance he made on Friday, April 24. and parents voiced concern about the over-policing of their children.

Mr. Gardner read off a litany of initiatives introduced by the Police to work with the Black community and

other communities. He highlighted Caribana, Jamaica Independence Day, and Black History Month among other events. However, the audience were not satisfied with the litany, they challenged him, asking what will he be doing differently from his predecessor, how will police accountability be addressed and how does the police recruit people of colour?

Mr. Gardner wants members of the Black community to rate him on his performance. He recently met with Dudley Laws of the Black

Action Defence Committee and Jeff Patterson of the Black Consultive Police Committee, both of whom were in the audience, to talk about community-police initiatives. According to Mr. Gardner he has asked the Board for \$100,000 to support a project proposed by Dudley Laws. He says he is open to suggestions.

Others in attendance included Councillor Judy Sgro; Sylvia Hudson of the Police Services Board; Deputy Police Chief Mollyneau; Staff Inspectors Steven Marrier and Keith Ford; and two local police officers.

The JCA would like to thank to the following businesses for their generous donations
McDonald Restaurant of Canada LTD., Pizza Nova, Sunlight Bakery, Burger King Restaurant, Jo Jo's Bakery and also everyone who contributed to the Association in kind and cash.

Membership Chair Report

By Francella Moore, Membership Chair

The membership committee is very busy planning spring and summer events for all the J.C.A family and friends.

The membership appreciation took place on April 25, 1998 and was well attended. Ten of the 70 members who were present received recognition for their dedicated volunteer services over the years. Those honoured were: Daphne Bailey, Erma Collins, Eunice Graham, Fred Irving, Iris Johns, Roy B. Stewart, Francella Moore, Janet Neilson, Lorna Plummer, and Frank Wallace.

The membership appreciation coin-

cided with the launching of our car raffle, funds raised will go toward the cost of renovations of the J.C.A Centre.

JCA President, Mr. Herman Stewart, updated the members on the proposed renovation and funding for the Centre. The Consul General, Mr. Herman LaMont, also attended and greeted the members, he was delighted with the warm welcome he received from those who were present.

The JCA Annual Picnic will

take place on July 5. However, the location will be confirmed at a later date.

Do you know of a member who is sick, passed away or need a visit from the visitation group? Then call our membership liaison with your information.

If you have not received any mailings or calls from us informing you of our events, that may be due to us not having updated information. Please call us with your complete address and telephone number so that we can update our records.



The JCA membership committee gives appreciation award to the above people; Front row (from left to right) Iris Johns, Alfred Irving and Francella Moore. Back row (from left to right) Frank Wallace, Lorna Plummer, Eunice Graham, Daphnie Bailey and Vincent Conville who receives for Erma Collins.

Upcoming Events - 1998

Annual General Meeting—Sunday, May 31, 1998 -2:00pm

Tea Party for Past Presidents —June 27

Annual Picnic —Sunday July 5, (venue to be announced)

Flag Raising Ceremony Sunday, August 2, at 2pm., Toronto City Hall Podium Roof

Jamaica Independence Church Service — Sunday, August 2, 1998—4pm (Venue to be announced)

Jamaica Independence Dinner & Dance—Saturday, August 8, 1998 (Venue to be announced)

Quarterly Meeting—Sunday, August 30, 1998 -2pm

Seniors' Month —September

Seniors' Dinner —September 30 - JCA Centre

Membership Drive —October 1 to November 30

Christmas Grand Market —Saturday, November 28

The JCA Nominating Committee Presents Candidates for Positions at the Annual General Meeting, May 31, 1998

President:

(This position is for two (2) years)
Herman Stewart (Incumbent)

Herman Stewart has been a member of the JCA for many years and has served in a number of capacities, including that of President. His volunteer work extends beyond the JCA to include George Brown College where he served on the Board of Governors, and to the Ontario Federation of Labour, where he served as vice-president. Herman is currently a mediator with the Ontario Ministry of Labour.

Treasurer:

(This position is for one (1) year)
Hugo Clarke

Hugo Clarke is a financial planner, and the President of a financial management practice specializing in retirement planning. Hugo is aware of the importance of working as a J.C.A Board member to successfully position the organization, so that it can meet the future needs of its members.

Chairperson Fundraising Committee:

(This position is for two (2) years)
Paul Downer
Resume to be submitted

Chairperson Youth Affair Committee:

(This position is for two (2) years)
Ansel Bather

Ansel Bather has been a tutor with the JCA's Saturday Morning Program for the past 3 years. He is a process engineer and has been with Proctor and Gamble since 1996. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of the West Indies.

Dwight Barrett

Dwight Barrett is a first year student at York University where he is

studying Kinesiology and Psychology. Dwight has been involved with youth issues since high school when he chaired conferences on youth issues. He was also involved in compiling a school yearbook and newspaper.

Dr. Edith Lorimer

Dr. Edith Lorimer is a family physician practicing in Metropolitan Toronto. Dr. Lorimer believes in networking for youth and community development. Over the years, Dr. Lorimer tutored post-secondary students and encouraged them to produce at very high standards.

Carlton Stewart

Resume to be submitted

Chairperson Public Relations Committee:

(This position is for two (2) years) Fred Irving

Fred Irving has been a member of the JCA for over 10 years. During that time he served as chairman of the Education and Membership committees. Fred believes there is a need to promote a positive public profile for the JCA and will work with other members of the organization to accomplish this. In the past, he has actively promoted the interest of the JCA with such companies as Teleglobe, Warner-Lambert and the Toronto Transit Commission.

Joyce Edwards

Resume to be submitted

Women's Committee Representative:

Ms. Pam Powell

Seniors' Committee Representative

Ms. Ruth Smith

Trustees: (Two (2) year term)

Names of three (3) Trustees to be submitted.

Note: Any paid up member of the JCA can still be nominated for the position of President; Treasurer; Chairperson, Fundraising Committee; Chairperson, Youth Affairs Committee; Chairperson, Public Relations Committee; and Trustee. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the Annual General Meeting. If you would like to be a candidate for any of the above positions (except the Women's and Seniors' Committee), call Solomon Spencer, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee at (416) 283-1764.

REMINDER

Keep your membership dues current. Dues are still \$20 per individual, \$30 per family. To find out more about the JCA and member activities call (416) 746-5772

Caribbean-Canadian Seniors

995 Arrow Road
Tues. & Thurs.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Our activities Include:

arts and crafts, choral group, discussions, seminars and field trips.

Come and meet people who will treat you like family and a friend!!

For more information, call us at

(416) 746-5772

Workshop Presentation to the Metro Police Community Liason Committee

By Pauline Tomlinson

The issue of crime is one that concerns all citizens. We all want to be able to walk the streets without fear. We all desire health, happiness and the right to enjoy basic freedoms. This is true for all communities including the black community.

The perception is that crime is pervasive among young black males. It is because of this perception, that blacks are apprehended by the Police more often than other ethnic groups. The media often highlight crimes committed by black offenders more than other ethnic groups. Two instances of horrific crimes come to mind which involved the murder of two beautiful young women, one white, one black. The Just Deserts murder where the funeral (and the perpetrator) made front page news and the recent murder of a black Toronto Star Staff Canvasser which did not attract the same public outrage and media coverage.

We know that there are many external factors which contribute to crimes committed by members of the Black Community. These include systemic racism, difficulty in adapting to a new and alien culture in the case of recent immigrants, lack of positive role models, unemployment and underemployment, low expectations fostered within the school system, poverty and family breakdown.

All these factors must be considered when addressing the issue of black crime. In essence, crime knows no colour. Criminals are the product of our society and we need to look and analyze the factors that contribute to the perpetration of crime. This is no less true for black criminals. For example, poverty and unemployment are two factors which support and foster the

An analysis of the contributors to criminal activity will foster a determination of solutions to deter this activity and to harness the potential that is being improperly channelled.

As a community, we must investigate avenues that will promote crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders. Dialogue must be established to encourage young blacks to feel included in the larger society. Programmes and curriculum in the school system must be all-inclusive and must contribute to their self-esteem. It is this lack of self esteem that enhance involvement in criminal activity and a general sense of hopelessness.

It is, of course, important that committees such as yours reach out and embrace diverse members of the population, including the black community, and this workshop is a good start.

An inherent mistrust of the police exists in the black community. Even law-abiding citizens harbour the fear that their sons will be stopped without cause and a confrontation may result. I have experienced this in the case of my son who is a major achiever and a former Harry Jerome academic award recipient, and who many times has been pulled over by Police for no reason, with the perception that he is a common criminal. On one occasion, his friend's cap was believed to be a ski mask. Another time, he was told to party

in his own neighbourhood, the officer not realizing that he lived in the neighbourhood. I took action in these situations and reported the matter to the local division.

It is this background of fear and mistrust that is faced and must be overcome in your efforts to have law-abiding members of the black community involved in organizations or committees which deal with issues surrounding the police and the correction system.

How can this be changed? We need to foster a community partnership where the police are seen as partners and not enemies. It is necessary to recruit more police from the black community and to provide the opportunity for promotion to the very highest echelon of the Police Force.

It is time to establish a dialogue for the police and law abiding black citizens to be working towards the same goals, namely, the prevention of crime, apprehension and punishment of criminals where deserved and rehabilitation.

Be aware of events such as the upcoming town hall meeting with Norm Gardner to be held at the Jamaican Canadian Centre. Your attendance at events provide insight into the attitudes that exist in the community.

The JCA is playing a pivotal role in Judge Adam's review of the SIU - read his report.

Collaborate with agencies such as the JCA, the African-Canadian Legal Clinic, the Congress of Black Women and many others that you will become aware of as the linkages are established.

Collaborate with the Consulates.

See Workshop...Pg.8

Thank you!

The Building to Serve Fund-raising Committee would like to express a sincere thank you to all who responded positively to our solicitations for financial support of this campaign. We know that these are dif-

ficult times for many in our community and so we are especially gratified that our call for assistance has garnered positive response.

We acknowledge those, who in 1997, have made pledges and donations to the fund-raising initia-

tive. I have tried to make the list as accurate as possible, however, if you supported the campaign in 1997 and I have failed to include your name, please let me know and I will ensure that it is included in our next *In Focus*.

Pledges/Donations 1997

\$10,000. - \$15,000.00

CIBC

Royal Bank

Kamala-Jean Gopie

\$5,000.00 - \$9,999.00

Bank of Nova Scotia

Toronto Dominion Bank

\$1,000.00 - \$4,000.00

Haari Abou Korrat

Leonard Braithwaite

Patricia & John Brooks

Mary Anne Chambers

Norma Clarke

Erma Collins

Sadie Harrison

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Knevel

Irma McLean

Alex Russell

Herman Stewart

Vincent & Fay Conville

Pam Powell

Gifford & Raffelita Walker

\$50.00 - \$999.00

Marylyn & Hugh Amiel

Laura Bennett

Ana Blakely

Daniel Braithwaite

Ray Crooks

Alvin Curling

Sheila de Gannes

Dr. Vincent D'Oyley

Dr. & Mrs. Keith Ellis

Julian Falconer

Mayanna Francis

Ivanhoe Goulbourne

Roy & Sonia Grant

Joe Halstead

A. & L. Henderson

Anthony Henry

Iris Henry

Clarence & Carmen Hewitt

Dr. Dan & Mrs. Hill

Justice Hoilett

Inez Hilton

Denham Jolly

Paul & Lerona Johnson

William Manning

Monica Mitchell

Yvonne Murray

Sheila Parkinson-Chong

Paul Richards (ProScience)

Betsy Richardson

Mr. & Mrs. Winston Roach

Ronald Robinson

Dr. Terrence Rose

Lana Salmon

Jennifer Schroder

Edward Scott

Eric & Clarice Smith

Dr. Winsome Smith

Sylvia Stewart

Mr. & Mrs. Ross Thomas

Mr. Lee Timell

Frank Wallace

Dr. Ouida Wright

Amendment to Jamaica's Motor Vehicle Import Policy

By Carolyn Goulbourne-Warren

The Government of Jamaica has amended its motor vehicle import policy.

Minister of Commerce and Technology, Hon. Philip Paulwell, announced the changes on April 15, 1998, with immediate effect.

The age limit on all motor vehicles to be imported into the island is now four years for cars and five years for light commercial vehicles. Previously, the age limit was seven years old.

Vehicles for which import licences had been granted before April 15, 1998 are not affected.

Another amendment to the motor vehicle import policy that's worth mentioning is that used car dealers can now import new motor vehicles.

Minister Paulwell said the reasons for these changes were to protect the environment, ensure fair competition and guarantee revenue and consumer protection.

For more information, contact the Jamaican Consulate at (416) 598-3008.

Workshop

The Jamaican Consul General is always involved in issues which affect Jamaicans, for example, the deportation to Jamaica of young adults who have been involved in criminal activity, and who, although born in Jamaica, have been residents of this country since childhood and are products of this society. Their deportation to a "foreign" country, where they do not have friends nor a family support system, is cruel and inhuman.

Advertise in community newspapers. The Share is the leader among these. Others include the Pride, the Jamaican Weekly and Caribbean Camera. I have some copies of these here today for your perusal. You will notice that on the front page of a recent issue of Share, Bromley Armstrong, a well-known member of the Black Community, speaks of his perception of the causes of violence. He echoes some of the problems that I have outlined to you today.

In closing, I believe that if we all work together with the common goal of achieving a better society, we will find a way to overcome the barriers and pave the path for future generations.